

Phillis Wheatley Literary Club

*cordially invites you to
attend the celebration of its
Seventieth Anniversary*

on Sunday afternoon

November 9, 1980 2 p.m. = 6 p.m.

at The Cathedral House

24 Rector Street

Newark, New Jersey

NEWARK ASSOCIATIONS MISC P-Z

FROM THE COLLECTIONS
OF THE
NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Phillis Wheatley Literary Club

presents

Harriette L. Davison

Violinist

and

Henry A. Smith

Pianist—Accompanist



Sayre Hall—Central Y. M. C. A.—Newark, N. J.

Friday March 31, 1939

Program



I.

Sonata - *Tartini*
MISS DAVISON MR. SMITH

II.

a. Moment Musicale - *Moskowski*
b. To Spring - *Grieg*

MR. SMITH

III.

Concerto E Minor - *Mendelssohn*
MISS DAVISON

IV.

a. Romance - *Sibelius*
b. Impromptu - C Sharp Minor *Rhienhold*

MR. SMITH

V.

a. Praeludium & Allegro *Kreisler*
b. Rondo - *Mozart-Kreisler*
c. Spanish Dance - *Sarasate*
d. Scherzo Tarantelle - *Wieniawski*

MISS DAVISON



Miss Davison will play as a special number "Serenade in F," written and dedicated to her by Mr. William Weiss, Director of Music, Barringer High School.

Piano Used—Griffith Piano Co., Newark, N. J.



PATRONS and PATRONESSES

Mrs. Claire H. Ader and friends
 " Hattie Ader
 " Cora Wynn Alexander
 Dr. and Mrs. W. G. Alexander

Mrs. Carl Bannwart
 Dr. J. LeRoy Baxter
 Mr. and Mrs. James H. Beckett
 " " Cornelius Bell

Mrs. George E. Bell
 " Gladys Bell
 Dr. Thomas Bell
 Mrs. Alberta Brooks
 Miss Winifred Browne
 Mrs. Eva Brunbach
 " Mattie Burner

Mrs. Sarah E. Collins

Mrs. Mildred Davis
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Davis

Mrs. Ollie E. Epps

Mr. and Mrs. Walter G. Fenderson
 Mrs. Mildred Foster

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gaines
 " " Harry Garrett
 " " J. Arthur Gibbs
 Atty's Glickenhau & Glickenhau
 Gloria Flower Shop
 Miss Eliza Goode
 Mrs. Mary T. Granger
 Mrs. Lena D. Griffith and friends

Miss Addie Harris
 Mrs. Georgianna Hayes
 Rev. Wm. P. Hayes
 Mrs. Richard Hazzard
 Miss Garnett Henderson
 Mr. and Mrs. John Herron
 Mrs. Ethel Hill and Mother
 Dr. and Mrs. Louis A. Hilton
 Mrs. John R. Houston

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Irving

Miss Anna Bell Jackson
 Mrs. May Jackson
 Dr. and Mrs. Clarence S. Janifer
 Mrs. George W. Janifer, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Eugene F. Johnson
 Mme. Minnie Johnson
 Dr. and Mrs. Bertram F. Jones

Dr. Wm. D. Kinchelow
 Miss Edna King and friends

Mrs. Richard Lee
 " Vestilla Lester

Miss Dorothy Mainor
 Mr. and Mrs. Guy Moorehead
 Mrs. Amelia B. Moorfield
 Mr. Cecil Morgan
 Mr. and Mrs. Gus Morris
 Miss Irene Morris
 Mrs. Gertrude Morton
 " Irene Mulford
 Miss Mae Mulford
 Music Appreciation Guild

Mrs. Abbie Nevius

Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Oliver

Mrs. Henry S. Palmer
 " James B. Parks
 Miss Helene Perlman and friends
 Mrs. Mary Perkins
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Powell
 Mrs. Nelson Price
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Puryear

Mrs. Bertha B. Randolph
 Miss Gladys Robinson
 " Elisabeth S. Rogers
 Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Rolfe
 Miss Doris Rolfe
 Mrs. Gladys M. Ross
 " Carrie Rowe
 Miss Julia T. Russell

Mrs. Charles Saunders
 Miss Marion Scott
 Mr. Hugo W. Senerchia
 Miss May Shepard
 Mr. Adolph Slaughter
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith
 Mr. John Snavery
 " Rufus Solomon
 Mrs. Laurel Streit
 " W. H. Sutherland

Mr. Dan Taylor
 Mrs. Madeline Terrell
 " Julia F. Townes

Dr. John E. Usher

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. R. Valentine
 Mr. Wm. R. Valentine, Jr.
 The Vogues

Mrs. W. H. Washington
 Miss Jeanette Watkins
 Mr. Vinson Watson
 Mrs. Dyrwood Williams
 Miss Beatrice Winner
 Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Wolfe
 Miss Mary E. Wood
 Mr. and Mrs. David D. Woody



*Phillis Wheatley
Literary Club*



Poetess



PHILLIS WHEATLEY LITERARY CLUB, the oldest club of Black women in New Jersey, was organized November 7, 1910 at **St. Phillip's Protestant Episcopal Church** (corner of High and Market Streets), Newark, New Jersey.

Founders of the **Phillis Wheatley Literary Club** and those serving as its first officers were:

Mrs. B.W. Paxton - President

Mrs. Emily Thomas - Vice President

Mrs. A.M. Lynch - Secretary

Mrs. Eugene Gregory - Treasurer

Mrs. Pauline Baxter Mrs. Lottie Cooper

Mrs. Adeline DeMund Mrs. Arminta H. Douglas

Mrs. Addie Gaines Mrs. Mary T. Granger

Mrs. Abbie L. Nevius

The club was organized for the purpose of promoting cultural enrichment among its members, and to stimulate cultural growth in the community.

Club programs designed to accomplish this purpose, fostered activities which included:

- promoting and encouraging the study of literature;
- developing an appreciation of the arts which encompassed painting, sculpture, theatre, dance, etc.
- increasing the general knowledge of our Negro heritage.

Phillis Wheatley Literary Club held its first public meeting on November 18, 1910 in Wallace Hall with the noted lecturer Hamilton Wright Mabrie as guest speaker. His topic was "**Along the Color Line.**"



Throughout those early years, **Phillis Wheatley Literary Club** continued to present many great and famous Americans to the Newark community. Several of those persons were:

Dr. W.E.B. DuBois
Mr. James Weldon Johnson
Mr. Walter White
Mr. W.C. Handy
Mr. Matthew Henson

Association between the **Phillis Wheatley Literary Club** and the **Newark Public Library** has always been close. Early meetings of the club were held at the library.

Although **Phillis Wheatley** is a literary organization, its purpose and focus began to change in 1917 when it became a member of the **State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs** and remained a part of this organization until 1979. In keeping with the Federation's motto "**To work and serve the**

hour, lifting as we climb", **Phillis Wheatley** took on certain philanthropic works. The club was especially interested in the encouragement of unusual, creative, and artistic talents among our young people. To this end contributions were made to the Newark Community Center of the Arts. The club has also given generously to organizations such as the Old Folks Home, the Friendly Neighborhood House, YMCA and YWCA Camp Funds, Timothy House, the Newark Fresh Air Fund, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.



Through both world wars, the members of the **Phillis Wheatley Literary Club** were cognizant of the needs and services of our country. They worked with great energy and zeal in United States Bond Drives, provided entertainment for troops and did knitting and other duties for the Red Cross. Since the inception of the United Nations, several of the members were deeply interested and involved in the work of this world organization.

Besides the personal growth each member experienced, the club has been responsible for continued public awareness of literature and culture by its sponsorship of exhibits of literature and art at both the Newark and Orange Public Libraries such as - paintings and sculpture by 24 nationally known Negro artists and The First Two Hundred Years of Negro Literature. It has also maintained membership in the Newark Museum where the group has met on occasion.

Today, seventy-seven years later, the **Phillis Wheatley Literary Club** continues to carry out the objectives of its founders. The membership remains committed to the tasks of:

- encouraging gifted minority young people to realize their potential in the arts;
- fulfilling their personal goals of cultural self-enrichment; and
- bringing to the public, information to enhance their knowledge and appreciation of literature and the arts.

Monthly club meetings are planned with programs that include presentations on literature, music, art, drama, information relative to our **Black Heritage**, and discussions of current events and racial issues.





**PHILLIS WHEATLEY LITERARY CLUB
1987-1988 Membership**

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Tate - President
Mrs. Barbara Phipps - Vice President
Mrs. Erma Stripling - Recording Secretary
Mrs. Freddie Cole - Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Odell Sands - Treasurer

***Mrs. Mary Ashby**
Mrs. Virginia Blackmon
Mrs. Ruth Fitzgerald
***Mrs. Ann Hilton**
***Mrs. Gladys Francis**
Mrs. Josephine B. Janifer
Mrs. Margaret McCray
Mrs. Margaret McLeod
Dr. Mabel B. Perry
Mrs. Anelcia Perry
Ms. Cathleen Scott

***Honorary Members**

Newark Assoc. Misc P. 2

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THE PHILLIS WHEATLEY

LITERARY CLUB

1910 - 1971

We must remember that in 1910 our libraries carried few titles on their shelves dealing with the Black man and his contribution to the stream of American Culture. Thus we are sure that the scarcity of such material was the compelling motive which urged Mrs. Paxton, our founder, to call together a group of women who not only wanted to read and study the classics, but wanted to learn more about their own heritage.

Anyone may see by reading our programs on the display board that the women explored everything from "Before the Mayflower" until the present "Black Rage."

In other words, Phillis Wheatley Literary Club women popularized Black History in Newark. The Librarian Mr. Bryan had a section in the book stacks filled with books that the P.W.L.C. Club needed for their research and of course this was beneficial to the community.

The Phillis Wheatley Literary Club was organized November 7, 1910 at St. Philips P.E. Church in Newark. It's activities have included the study of the heritage of the Black Man in literature and art, and the discussion of current events and racial problems.

Since 1917 when it became a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, it has taken on certain philanthropic work in keeping with the purpose of the Federation whose motto is "To Work and Serve the Hour."

The first officers of the club were Mrs. D.W. Paxton, president, Mrs. E. Thomas, Vice President, Mrs. A.M. Lynch, secretary, and Mrs. Gregory, treasurer. There were fourteen founder members.

The first public meeting was held on November 28th 1910 in Wallace Hall. A then noted lecturer Hamilton Wright Mable was the guest speaker. "Along the Color Line" was his topic.

During the sixty years of the Club's existence more than eighty-five women have been elected to membership. Our last founder was Mrs. Abbie Novius who passed away a few years ago.

Association between the Phillis Wheatley Literary Club and the Newark Public Library has always been close. Formerly our club meetings were held in the library.

The Newark Museum and the Phillis Wheatley Club have also maintained a fine relationship. We often go there to exhibits and lectures.

Once a year we have "Tea" at the museum, at which time we present youthful talent. Often this talent is provided by Mrs. Lass and the children from the Community Center for the Arts.

Free Public Library, Newark, N. J.

N. J. REFERENCE DIVISION

PHILLIS WHEATLEY

Significant to American literature is Phillis Wheatley who remains generally excluded from textual Colonial History. The first reference to George Washington as "First in Peace" was made by her.

Phillis Wheatley was kidnapped from her native Senegal in Africa when she was about 7 years of age and brought on a slave ship to Boston in 1760. John Wheatley a tailor purchased her to be a special servant for his wife. The Wheatleys named her Phillis and thus she became "Phillis Wheatley."

Fortunately Mrs. Wheatley and her daughter Mary soon recognized the child's unusual ability. They taught her to read and within sixteen months Phillis was able to read the Bible fluently. They saw to it that she also became well acquainted with the classics. In time, she was writing verses. Her poem on the Death of Rev. George Whitfield was dedicated to the Countess of Huntingdon and was published in 1770. The Wheatleys by this time had freed Phillis from slavery.

She was given a trip to London and while there she was the guest of the Countess. Her first volume of poems was published in England. She called the book "Poems on Various Subjects - Religious and Moral."

Phillis had to hurry back to America because of the illness of her good friend Mrs. Wheatley.

It was a sad day for her when her benefactor passed away.

Besides her trip to Europe, there was another high point in her career. She wrote a poem in honor of the appointment of George Washington as Commander in Chief of the Colonial Army. He graciously acknowledged receipt of the poem and invited "Miss Phillis" to visit his headquarters in Cambridge. She made the trip and was courteously received by Washington and his staff.

Although Phillis Wheatley had mastered Latin and had written poems which attracted international attention, she wrote the following simple lines to express how grateful she was for the gift of Christianity:

'Twas mercy brought me from my Pagan land,
Taught my benighted soul to understand,
That there's a God, that there's a Savior too:
Once I, redemption neither sought nor knew.
Some view our race with scornful eye -
"Their color is a diabolic dye"
Remember Christians, negroes black as Cain,
May be refined and join the angelic train.

We hope and trust that her name and works will be cherished most warmly by all of us!